



GREEN SPRING GARDENS PARK

PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

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RECOMMENDED NON-NATIVE HARDY PERENNIALS FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Hardy herbaceous perennials are a group of plants that gardeners are very passionate about because of their colorful flowers and foliage and wide variety of textures, forms, and heights. Herbaceous perennials usually form little or no woody tissue. Most of these plants are deciduous and die back to the ground in the winter, although some species are semi-evergreen or evergreen (e.g., hellebores). Some perennials are short-lived and may only live three years (e.g., rose campion), while others can live for decades (e.g., peonies).

Perennials are a joy to garden with because they are easily moved to create new design combinations and provide an ever-changing scene in the garden. They are appropriate for a wide range of gardens, from perennial borders to informal shade gardens.

The following are useful definitions:

- **Cultivar (cv.)** – a cultivated variety designated by single quotes (e.g., ‘Summer Beauty’). A **variety (var.)** or **subspecies (subsp.)**, in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- **Full shade** – the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens.
- **Part shade** – the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.

The following is a list of hardy, non-native perennials that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. None of these perennials are invasive. Native perennials are not included in this plant information sheet – see **Recommended Native Herbaceous Perennial Plants for Shade Gardens in the Washington, D.C. Area (#14)** and **Recommended Native Herbaceous Perennial Plants for Sunny Gardens in the Washington, D.C. Area (#10)**. Some perennials are shade-loving, while others prefer to bask in full sun (6 hours or more of sunlight daily). Most of these perennials prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements and special cultural requirements or tolerances are noted in the comments column. Perennials that need to grow in wet sites and perennials solely for rock gardens are not included.

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Acanthus spinosus</i> & the hybrid ‘Summer Beauty’	Bear’s Breeches	Light shade to part shade
<i>Achillea</i> ‘Appleblossom’ & ‘Coronation Gold’ <i>A. millefolium</i> ‘Ortel’s Rose’ (‘1869’)	Yarrow	Full sun; tolerate dry sites
<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i>	Monkshood	Prefers rich, moist soil in light shade

<i>Agapanthus campanulatus</i>	Bell Agapanthus	Full sun; may want to mulch in late November/early December in less protected sites for winter protection
<i>Alchemilla mollis</i>	Lady's Mantle	Light shade to part shade
<i>Allium senescens</i> (var. <i>glaucum</i>) – good for rock gardens & water-wise gardens	German Garlic	Full sun; bulbs but behave like perennials – foliage persists the entire growing season; tolerates dry sites
<i>Alstroemeria</i> 'Sweet Laura'	Sweet Laura Peruvian Lily	Full sun to light shade
<i>Amsonia hubrichtii</i> (native to AR & OK)	Hubricht's Bluestar	Full sun to light shade; reseed readily in moist sites
<i>Anemone</i> 'Bressingham Glow' <i>A. × hybrida</i> cvs. such as 'Honorine Jobert', 'Margarete', & 'Whirlwind' <i>A. tomentosa</i> 'Robustissima' (for a spring bloomer, try <i>A. sylvestris</i> [snowdrop anemone])	Bressingham Glow Anemone Japanese Anemone	Full sun (moist site) to part shade
<i>A. chrysantha</i> (SW U.S. native) <i>A. vulgaris</i> , <i>A. alpina</i> , & hybrids	Golden Columbine Columbine	Full sun to part shade; allow to reseed: individual plants short-lived perennials
<i>Argemone munita</i> (native to western U.S.)	Flatbud Prickly Poppy	Full sun; prefers dry sites; short-lived perennial but reseeds; good for rock garden & water-wise use
<i>Arisaema ringens</i> <i>A. sikokianum</i>	Asian Jack-in-the-Pulpit	Light shade to part shade in rich soil; <i>A. ringens</i> is an easier plant to grow
<i>Armeria maritima</i>	Common Thrift	Full sun; prefers dry sites w/ excellent drainage; good rock garden & water-wise plant
<i>Artemisia</i> 'Powis Castle'	Powis Castle Artemisia	Full sun; tolerates dry sites
<i>Arum italicum</i> 'Pictum' & other variegated cvs.	Italian Arum	Light shade to part shade; tolerates dry sites; some reseeding
<i>Asarum europaeum</i> <i>A. splendens</i>	European Wild Ginger Chinese Wild Ginger	Light shade to full shade
<i>Aster tataricus</i> ('Jindai' is shorter than the species)	Tatarian Aster	Full sun to light shade; tolerant of dry sites
<i>Astilbe × arendsii</i> , <i>A. japonica</i> , <i>A. chinensis</i> ('Visions' is lovely), & <i>A. × rosea</i> cvs.	Astilbe	Light shade to part shade; like moisture
<i>Baptisia sphaerocarpa</i> (native to Ark., TX, etc.)	Yellow Wild Indigo	Full sun
<i>Begonia grandis</i>	Hardy Begonia	Light shade to part shade; reseeds readily; a tuberous root but behaves like a perennial – foliage persists the entire growing season
<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> & hybrids ('Perfect' & seedlings of 'Ballawley' have performed well here)	Bergenia	Full sun (moist sites) to part shade
<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i> & cvs.	Heartleaf Brunnera	Light shade to part shade; some reseeding

<i>Campanula poscharskyana</i>	Serbian Campanula	Full sun to part shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red Valerian	Full sun; reseeds readily; tolerates dry sites
<i>Ceratostigma plumbaginoides</i>	Leadwort	Full sun to light shade
<i>Chrysanthemum pacificum</i> (<i>Ajania pacifica</i>) <i>C. (Tanacetum) parthenium</i> 'Aureum' <i>C.</i> hybrids such as 'Single Apricot', 'Venus', & 'Country Girl' <i>C. (Leucanthemum) × superbum</i> 'Becky'	Silver and Gold Chrysanthemum Golden Feverfew Chrysanthemum Becky Shasta Daisy	Full sun; most spp. tolerate dry sites Golden feverfew is a short-lived perennial that often reseeds
<i>Cimicifuga japonica</i> <i>C. dahurica</i> <i>C. simplex</i> 'White Pearl' & 'Pritchard's Giant'	Bugbane, Fairy Candles	Light shade to part shade; <i>C. simplex</i> cvs. bloom in the fall
<i>Clematis heracleifolia</i> (var. <i>daurica</i>), <i>C. × jouiniana</i> 'Praecox', & 'Robert Brydon' ('Mrs. Robert Brydon') <i>C. integrifolia</i> (its short, woody hybrid <i>C. × durandii</i> is grown for its larger flowers) <i>C. recta</i> 'Purpurea' & the darker Serious Black™ ('Lime Close')	Clematis Solitary Clematis Purpleleaf Ground Clematis	Full sun to light shade; sprawling perennials except <i>C. integrifolia</i> ; 'Praecox' can be trained to climb
<i>Convallaria majalis</i> (variegated selections also)	Lily of the Valley	Light shade to part shade in consistently moist sites to look their best
<i>Crocsmia</i> 'Lucifer' & 'Ember Glow'	Crocsmia	Full sun
<i>Dianthus gratianopolitanus</i> cvs. & hybrids such as 'Bath's Pink'	Cheddar Pink	Full sun; tolerates dry sites; good rock garden & water-wise plant; some reseeding
<i>Dicentra spectabilis</i> & 'Alba'	Bleeding Heart	Light shade to part shade; some reseeding
<i>Digitalis grandiflora</i> <i>D. lutea</i> <i>D. thapsi</i>	Yellow Foxglove Small Yellow Foxglove Foxglove	Full sun (moist site) to part shade; some reseeding for <i>D. lutea</i> Full sun
<i>Disporum sessile</i> 'Variegatum' <i>D. uniflorum (flavens)</i>	Variegated Japanese Fairy Bells Fairy Bells	Light shade to part shade

<i>Epimedium</i> 'Black Sea' <i>E. davidii</i> <i>E. grandiflorum</i> cvs. <i>E. × perralchicum</i> 'Frohnleiten' <i>E. × pinnatum</i> subsp. <i>colchicum</i> <i>E.</i> 'Enchantress' <i>E. × rubrum</i> <i>E. sagittatum</i> (grown for large leaves relative to other spp.) <i>E. × versicolor</i> 'Sulphureum' <i>E. × youngianum</i> 'Niveum' & 'Yenomoto' <i>E. × warleyense</i> ('Orange Queen' ['Orangekonigin'])	Epimedium, Fairy Wings, Barrenwort	Light shade to full shade; most spp. & cvs. tolerate dry sites but prefer moist sites
<i>Eryngium agavifolium</i>	Sea Holly	Full sun
<i>Eucomis</i> 'Sparkling Burgundy' (other spp. & hybrids also perform well but less showy)	Sparkling Burgundy Pineapple Lily	Full sun; winter hardy in very cold winters when mulched with a deep mulch in late November
<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i> var. <i>robbiae</i>	Wood Spurge	Light shade to full shade; prefers dry sites
<i>Filipendula palmata</i> ('Nana', 'Elegans' ['Elegantissima']) <i>F. purpurea</i>	Meadowsweet	Full sun to light shade; need consistently moist sites
<i>Gaura lindheimeri</i> (TX & LA native)	White Gaura, Lindheimer's Bee Blossom	Full sun; has performed well in dry, sloping sites (has not done well in rich, level soils); pink-flowered forms have been short-lived locally
<i>Geranium × cantabrigiense</i> ('Biokova') G. 'Johnson's Blue' (G. × <i>magnificum</i> & 'Brookside' also have showy blue flowers) G. <i>macrorrhizum</i> cvs. G. <i>phaeum</i> (best cv. is 'Samobor') G. <i>sanguineum</i> ('Album', 'Elspeth', & var. <i>striatum</i>)	Hardy Geranium Blue-flowered Hardy Geranium Bigroot Hardy Geranium Hardy Geranium	Full sun (moist site) to part shade Full sun (moist site) to light shade Light shade to part shade Light shade to part shade; reseeds readily Full sun to light shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Helenium</i> 'Dunkle Pracht', 'Feuersiegel', & 'Moerheim Beauty'	Helenium	Full sun in moist to periodically wet sites; one parent of these hybrids is a VA native (& 2 western natives)
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i> <i>H. orientalis</i> & hybrids (<i>H. × hybridus</i>) Note: <i>H. argutifolius</i> performs well in protected, well-drained sites	Bearsfoot Hellebore Lenten Rose	Light shade to part shade; reseed readily
<i>Heemerocallis</i> spp. & hybrids	Daylily	Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites
<i>Heuchera</i> hybrids such as 'Palace Purple' & 'Silver Scrolls'	Alumroot	Light shade to part shade; tolerant of dry sites; sometimes roots eaten by black vine weevil so some plants short-lived

<i>Hosta</i> species & hybrids	Hosta	Light shade to part shade best; some plants that are not variegated will take full shade
<i>Iris</i> - for moist or wet sites: <i>I. ensata</i> cvs. ('Variegata') <i>I. sibirica</i> & hybrids ('Caesar's Brother', 'Tropic Night', 'Velvet Night') <i>Iris</i> - for dry or moist sites: Bearded iris hybrids & 2 spp. of bearded iris: <i>I. variegata</i> & <i>I. subbiflora</i> <i>I. tectorum</i>	Japanese Iris Siberian Iris Bearded Iris Roof Iris	Full sun to light shade Full sun to light shade Full sun to part shade
<i>Knautia macedonica</i>	Knautia	Full sun; reseeds readily
<i>Kniphofia</i> cvs. ('Little Maid', 'Primrose Beauty', 'Reddy Maid')	Kniphofia, Torchlily, or Red Hot Poker	Full sun
<i>Lilium</i> Asiatic Hybrids such as 'Tiger Babies' & 'Montreux' <i>L.</i> Trumpet or Aurelian Hybrids such as 'Lady Anne' <i>L.</i> Oriental Hybrids such as 'Stargazer' <i>Lilium regale</i> & hybrid 'George C. Creelman' <i>L. speciosum</i> var. <i>rubrum</i> ('Rubrum')	Lily	Full sun; bulbs but behave like perennials - foliage persists the entire growing season
<i>Limonium latifolium</i>	Sea Lavender	Full sun; tolerates dry sites
<i>Liriope muscari</i> & cvs.	Lilyturf	Full sun to full shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Lychnis coronaria</i> ('Alba')	Rose Campion	Full sun; tolerates dry sites; short-lived perennial but reseeds readily
<i>Malva alcea</i> 'Fastigiata'	Upright Hollyhock Mallow	Full sun; short-lived perennial but reseeds readily
<i>Nepeta</i> × <i>faassenii</i> 'Six Hills Giant' & 'Walker's Low' ('Blue Wonder' is shorter than the above)	Catmint	Full sun; tolerate dry sites
<i>Ophiopogon japonicus</i> ('Gyoku-Ryu' is a dwarf cv.) <i>O. planiscapus</i> 'Nigrescens' (also called 'Ebony Knight')	Mondo Grass Black Mondo Grass	Full sun (moist site) to full shade; tolerant of dry sites (except dwarf cvs.) Full sun to part shade
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> 'Aureum'	Golden Oregano	Full sun; tolerate dry sites
<i>Paeonia lactiflora</i> hybrids (cvs. such as 'Festiva Maxima', 'Ivory Treasure', 'Sarah Bernhardt', 'Sea Shell', & 'Tom Eckhardt')	Garden Peony	Full sun; tolerate dry sites; early to midseason bloomers best for our area
<i>Papaver atlanticum</i> <i>P. orientale</i> 'Turkenlouis' (some pink selections have also done well locally)	Moroccan Poppy Oriental Poppy	Full sun; biennial to short-lived perennial but reseeds readily Full sun; summer dormant & foliage comes up again in the fall

<i>Penstemon barbatus</i> & hybrids such as 'Rose Elf' (sp. is native to SW U.S.)	Scarlet Penstemon	Full sun; tolerates dry sites & needs well-drained soil; one of the longer lived members of this genus in our climate; Note: <i>P. gentianoides</i> is a lovely penstemon that is a parent of a number of hybrids; an example of an excellent hybrid is 'Evelyn'
<i>Perovskia atriplicifolia</i> ('Longin')	Russian Sage	Full sun; a sub-shrub (cut back in late March)
<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i> ('Compact Grey') <i>P. russeliana</i> <i>P. tuberosa</i>	Phlomis	Full sun to light shade; <i>P. fruticosa</i> tolerates dry sites
<i>Platycodon grandiflorus</i> ('Fuji Blue', 'Komachi')	Balloon Flower	Full sun to light shade; comes up late: don't forget where it's planted!; tolerates dry sites
<i>Polygonatum humile</i> <i>P. odoratum</i> var. <i>pluriflorum</i> 'Variegatum'	Dwarf Solomon's Seal Variegated Japanese Solomon's Seal	Light shade to part shade; tolerate dry sites
<i>Polygonum (Persicaria) amplexicaule</i> 'Fire Tail' Note: <i>Polygonum (Persicaria microcephala)</i> 'Red Dragon' has lovely purple, silver & green foliage'	Fire Tail Mountain Fleece	Full sun to light shade in moist or wet sites ('Red Dragon' will perform well with less moisture)
<i>Primula japonica</i> (Note: <i>P. sieboldii</i> has similar needs but requires a moist site) <i>P. vulgaris</i> (subsp. <i>sibthorpii</i>) Note: others that have performed well locally include <i>P. 'Lois Lutz'</i> , <i>P. × polyantha</i> (Pruhonicensis hybrids), <i>P. elatior</i> , & <i>P. kisoana</i>	Japanese Primrose Primrose	Light shade to part shade in constantly moist or wet sites Light shade to part shade; best in moist sites
<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i> var. <i>cevennensis</i> ('Cevennensis') & 'Bertram Anderson' <i>P. saccharata</i> hybrids including 'Raspberry Splash', 'Roy Davidson', & 'Victorian Brooch'	Lungwort	Light shade to part shade; some reseeding
<i>Rohdea japonica</i>	Rohdea, Sacred Lily	Light shade to full shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Rosmarinus officinalis</i> 'Arp' ('Madalene Hill' ['Hill Hardy'] also is winter hardy)	Arp Rosemary	Full sun in well-drained sites; tolerates dry sites

<i>Salvia arizonica</i> <i>S. greggii</i> & hybrids: 'Rosea', 'Dark Dancer', 'Moonlight', 'Wild Watermelon', 'Raspberry Royale', & 'Cherry Chief' (well-drained, protected sites for best winter hardiness); <i>S. guaranitica</i> ('Argentina Skies', 'Black and Blue') <i>S. uliginosa</i> (floppy but nice flowers)	Arizona Salvia Autumn Salvia Anise-scented Salvia Bog Salvia	Full sun; tolerate dry sites <i>S. greggii</i> & <i>S. microphylla</i> are Texas natives; hybrids such as 'Cherry Chief' less hardy than <i>S. greggii</i> cvs. like 'Rosea' Full sun; may want to mulch thickly in late Nov. (some winter kill in very cold winters) Likes moister sites than the above plants
<i>Sanguisorba tenuifolia</i> var. <i>purpurea</i>	Purple-flowered Burnet	Full sun; prefers moist sites
<i>Saxifraga stolonifera</i>	Strawberry Begonia	Light shade to part shade; likes moisture
<i>Schizostylis coccinea</i> cvs.	Kaffir Lily	Full sun to light shade; do not crowd & likes moist sites
<i>Sedum (Hylotelephium)</i> 'Autumn Joy' <i>S.</i> 'Matrona' <i>S.</i> 'Neon' <i>S. (Hylotelephium)</i> 'Vera Jameson'	Autumn Joy Sedum Matrona Sedum Neon Sedum Vera Jameson Sedum	Full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites
<i>Solidago</i> 'Golden Baby' ('Goldkind'; hybrid of American & European spp.)	Golden Baby Goldenrod	Full sun; tolerate dry sites; see other <i>Solidago</i> spp. in native sun & shade perennial information sheets
<i>Stachys byzantina</i> ('Big Ears' = 'Helene von Stein')	Lamb's Ears	Full sun; tolerates dry sites
<i>Syneilesis aconitifolia</i>	Syneilesis	Light shade to part shade; interesting texture for a shade garden
<i>Thalictrum aquilegifolium</i> <i>T. flavum</i> subsp. <i>glaucum</i> or 'Glaucum' (previously <i>T. speciosissimum</i>) <i>T. rochebrunianum</i>	Meadow-rue	Full sun (moist soil) to part shade Full sun to light shade Full sun (moist soil) to part shade; reseeds readily
<i>Tricyrtis formosana</i> (var. <i>stolonifera</i> is a <i>T. f.</i> × <i>T. hirta</i> hybrid) <i>T. hirta</i> cvs. & hybrids ('Kohaku', 'Miyazaki', 'Sinonome', 'Tojen' ['Togen'], 'Variegata' ['Albo-marginata'])	Toad Lily	Light shade to part shade
<i>Vancouveria hexandra</i> (western U.S. native)	Vancouveria, White Insideout Flower	Light shade to full shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Verbascum chaixii</i> ('Album')	Chaix Mullein	Full sun; tolerates dry sites; short-lived perennial but reseeds

<i>Veronica austriaca</i> subsp. <i>teucrium</i> 'Crater Lake Blue' V. 'Goodness Grows' <i>V. peduncularis</i> 'Georgia Blue' V. 'Saraband'	Veronica	Full sun to light shade Light shade to part shade Full sun in dry sites
<i>V. odorata</i> (valued for the fragrance of its flowers)	Sweet Violet	Full sun (moist site) to part shade; some reseeding

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Developed by Brenda Skarphol, Curatorial Horticulturist at Green Spring Gardens Park

Updated 3/2003 (Rec.per)